

CAUX SCHOLARS PROGRAM

ASIA PLATEAU 2019 - 2020 REPORT

United States
Initiatives of Change
Caux Scholars Program





Scholar Demographics



AGE RANGE
23 - 41 Years

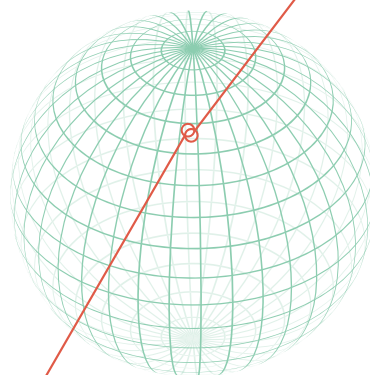
ETHNIC GROUPS
More than 17



15
WOMEN



7
MEN

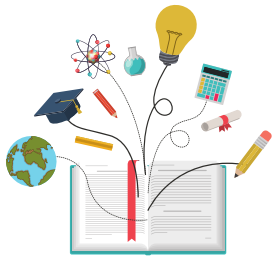


Citizenship/ Nationality at Birth

- Afghan
- Bangladeshi
- Burundian
- Cameroonian
- Egyptian
- Filipino
- Finnish
- Honduran
- Indian
- Jordanian
- Lebanese
- Mu
- Nepali
- New Zealander
- South African
- Sri Lankan
- Stateless
- Stateless/Tibetan
- Zimbabwean

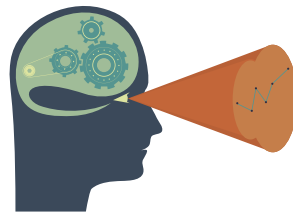
Current Citizenship/ Nationality

- Afghan
- Australian
- Bangladeshi
- British
- Burundian
- Cameroonian
- Egyptian
- Filipino
- Finnish
- Honduran
- Indian
- Jordanian
- Lebanese/Armenian
- Nepali
- New Zealander
- None
- South African
- Sri Lankan
- Zimbabwean



EDUCATION LEVELS

- Bachelors in Theatre, Masters in Conflict and Terrorism (currently studying)
- Bachelors in Biomedical Engineering
- Masters of Social Science in International Relations
- Bachelors in English Literature
- Post-graduate (in process)
- Masters in English Literature and Criticism: Postcolonial Literature
- Bachelors
- Post-graduate
- High School (Elementary Teacher Training)
- Masters in Economics
- Bachelors with Honors
- Masters in Social Science
- Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration
- Bachelor of Social Work; Post-graduate certificates in Employee Assistance programs and Employee Wellness; and currently studying Honors in Social Behavioral Studies (HIV/AIDS)



PROFESSIONS

- Leadership Coach, Facilitator, Coach Trainer, Actor
- Biomedical Engineer
- Contributor, Researcher, Migration Enthusiast
- Musician, Writer
- Student in Development Studies
- Project Coordinator Assistant in the Humanitarian field
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Social and Economic Justice Activist
- English Teacher and Academic Coordinator
- Social Activist, Independent Researcher, Theatre Artist
- Telecommunication Engineer
- Legal Assistant
- Director of Operations, Development Worker
- Recent Graduate
- Freelance Writer
- Social Worker and Satellite Office Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Caux Scholars Program-Asia Plateau (CSP-AP) graduated a sixth year of scholars in January 2020.

The globally diverse cohort was composed of 22 Scholars from 18 different countries who were gathered together in Panchgani, India for the 21 day programme.

The programme is focused on the theoretical and practical application of methodologies such as sustainable development and peacebuilding including trauma healing, human rights and gender issues, restorative justice, and non-violent action.

The program is led by renowned experts and academic directors - Dr. Ashok Xavier, Dr. Florina Xavier and Dr. David Anderson Hooker. The aim is to develop practical skills in negotiation, building local capacity, applied theatre in peacebuilding, community mobilization, and understanding different cultures. The Scholars receive an innovative and intensive study of lectures, simulations, group exercises, dialogue, debate, field visits, theatre seminars, arts workshops, meditations, healing circles and course presentations.





Sustainable Development

The Scholars found comfort in a robust discussion centered on equity and equality as effective processes to shape societies that are inclusive in order to progress the notion and idea of sustainable development. Beyond the normalized approach of criminalizing actions which harm the environment, the agreement emanating from the Scholars' discussions was on how safety nets may be created to build resilient systems that are open and safe for all members of society, to ensure that all have an easier path towards constructing a sense of stewardship and responsibility.

The Scholars engaged in a thorough dispensation of sustainable development - the concepts, character, discourse and impact included. Interesting perspectives were brought to the table by the Scholars, in a discussion facilitated by faculty that created a safe environment for all scholars to actively participate and freely share the content of their wide-ranging contexts. Of importance was the consensus around sustainable development being a “work in progress”, a call to action for all nations, communities and people. The understanding of the scope of sustainable development was expanded beyond the basic appreciation of the social, economic and ecological.



Of Trauma Healing

The process, the spirit, the tools, and the need for a shared sense of safeties

The Scholars unpacked the simplicity of perpetual trauma on the basis of failure to meticulously dispense of trauma. Trauma is often the “elephant in the room” for individuals and societies. The module was presented under the STAR model (trauma experience, cycles of violence, breaking free from violence and building resilience), directly expressing the realities of the vicious cycle of victimhood, which imprints trauma as a culture, as a tradition and ultimately evolving into a lived reality. Through tailored activities, group work and games, the realities of our diverse pasts, backgrounds and cognitive imprints, a shared realization emerged of how trauma and its proceeding cycle are basic instinct to react in flight, freeze or fight!

An intimate setting, a pivotal center of the CSP-AP 2019-2020 journey, allowed the Trauma Healing session to be a powerfully emotive process. This tool focuses on an internal journey of understanding how much personal values are creations of lived experiences and challenges these same values to help Scholars define for themselves their identities and their difficulties. Ultimately, this helped to enhance the cohesive journey of the program.

The power of a circle process is in its capacity to create a shared space, open a level platform for honesty, balance and healing.

**BUYILE
MATHENJWA**
CSP-AP Scholar
2019-2020
South Africa



Restorative Justice

The Scholars partook in a two-day journey aimed at addressing the concepts and processes of Restorative Justice. Appreciation was shared on the definitions, thoughts and feelings around justice as a lived experience. In this regard, the Scholars agreed unanimously to disagree and started the module with an understanding of “right and wrong defined by different standards of what is legal and illegal in the world we live in today”.

Restorative Justice, whichever definition would be agreed upon, would seek to somewhat realign these two standards in a utopian reality. A long and robust discussion ensued, where feelings were shared on a real life example of a persona, with an appreciation of how justice can mean different things to people in a similar situation, on the basis of time, context and the existing order. Tools used effectively, showed how the concept of Restorative justice is being tested and operationalized in different settings across the world, with sufficient time and space being provided for the Scholars to share thoughts and ideas on the meanings derived from the tools that were used.



Unpacking Conflict

Whenever you realize that you are in a conflict environment, know that you started it.



The Caux Scholars Program provides a space for participants to prepare and deliver a presentation on any conflict situation they identify with in their communities. These presentations impact more on the presenter of the said conflict, due to the conscious placement of the presentations after delivery of conflict as a module in the program. Conflict is defined as “two ideas trying to share a space.” While presenting, Scholars would be conscious of a host of analysis and situational tools that shed a new perspective on the Scholar, in relation to a conflict situation that is a part of their lived reality. It is from the founding of this platform, that a global understanding is shared regarding the impacts of conflict on citizens, the dangers of escalation and the need for trust and courage in changing the realities around conflict situations.



All twenty-two Scholars gave descriptive and relevant information and showed ownership of their lived experience, which has a powerful impact on the listeners. Most Scholars appreciated the ease of Conflict Analysis through the tools introduced within this module with a particular focus on the ABC triangle, Force Field analysis, Conflict timeline and Conflict Mapping. Of significance was the concept of ‘Conflict Transformation’ which appealed to the Scholars who comprise activists, life coaches, students and members of non-governmental organizations.



Field Visit

An entirely untethered and yet fulfilling part of peacebuilding is an honor to share in the lived realities of communities. The Scholars got an opportunity to experience the power of community and communality, by embarking on a two-day journey to the small village of Akegani. The village epitomizes the traditions of Hinduism. Respectfully conscious and tolerant of differences, the people of Akegani abide by their traditions and have embraced an informal and yet shared value system which recognizes right from wrong, and goes on to chart an unwritten agreement around the actions of offenders.

The society, through their connection to a shared religion has charted a social contract, unwritten but etched in the lives of all those who live in the community. The Scholars visited a primary school, a strawberry garden, the entire village and received the rare honor of receiving fulfillment from the serene and enthralling vista of Panchgani.

In the Words

Caux Scholars equipped me with tools to work in the social sector and address problems that prevent peace and justice. This experience changed my vision. I now envision a world beyond boundaries not limiting my stereotypical understanding. The program not only gave me dimensional understanding of conflict but also how justice contributes to society. I want to incorporate the learning of peacebuilding, reconciliation and restorative justice in my country.

I never had any confidence or support to help my community who are on the edge of society and unknown to the world. CSP-AP is the first step in my journey of confidence about my identity and created an opportunity to get involved in projects where I am able to share my identity in a safe space.

This is a life-changing opportunity familiarizing me with a wide range of information in peace building. During my time at CSP-AP, I got to honestly share my thoughts and exchange knowledge with Scholars about issues from different countries and regions. I learned how to deal with my personal conflicts. The program also helped me explore different aspects of work on the international scale (many types of conflict from region to region) especially trauma healing.



of the Scholars

The Caux Scholars Program is special because it opened me up to this vast world of peacebuilding that I knew little about before. It not only gave me perspective and understanding about the happenings of the world, but the added bonus of learning this knowledge with 20+ people from all over the world. This helped me understand just how much context and perspective defines a particular situation. Peacebuilding is a fascinating, humbling experience that helps make us more humane.

The 21-day journey of CSP-AP was life-changing for me. It was a journey of working on myself through inner listening to build my worldview around the critical issues of society. CSP-AP gave me amazing friends across the world and time to understand their work. It gave me courage to think beyond myself and pursue a life in a much more meaningful manner towards my society. The beauty of the program is that it will not only give theoretical knowledge but also tools to encounter conflict, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

CSP-AP is an eye opener for me on different perspectives and habits related to creating personal and community change. The most important aspect that I adore about this program is that change can start from the bottom without keeping look at the top of the pyramid all the time. The program helped us to see change in different ways; it could be a chat with a child in the community or helping to clean the land of tree leaves.

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ASIA PLATEAU
2019-2020



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2201 West Broad Street
Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23220

Caux Scholars

Program Director:

Jitka Hromek-Vaitla

202.872.9077 (phone)

202.872.9137 (fax)

cauxscholars@iofc.org (email)

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